



LEE MAY
COMMISSIONER

DEKALB COUNTY DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

JAN - FEB 2009

WWW.LEEMAYDISTRICT5.COM

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DeKalb Meets to Set 2009 Budget

Friday, February 6, 2009

The 2009 Budget is a top priority for DeKalb County residents, employees, and politicians alike. Though each have various priorities to be addressed and opinions on how the budget should be allocated this upcoming year, the country's growing financial crisis places constraints on how much can be done, and it makes us wonder how will the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners allocate the reduced budget?

DeKalb County District 5 Commissioner Lee May has made it clear that public safety, youth, economic development, and transportation are his priorities for the upcoming fiscal

year. Although he has indicated his areas of precedence, Commissioner May is committed to ensuring that he adequately addresses public concerns as well.



Commissioner May Discusses Budget Questions at Town Hall Meeting

Commissioner May showed his commitment to focusing on constituent concerns in the recent Budget Town

Hall Meetings, held February 5, 2009 at the Berean Christian Church, February 13, 2009 at the Lou Walker Senior Center, and February 17, 2009 at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. Each of these meetings were held in an effort to gain constituent consensus on the issues they face and care about.

Commissioner May wants to ensure that tax dollars are being spent wisely, "We want our constituents to know what the budget means in the simplest of terms," said Commissioner May. "It's important to show residents where their tax dollars are being allocated in 2009," he said.

Between his own initiatives and the

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DeKalb CEO Fires Police Chief

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

CEO Burrell Ellis and Police Chief Terrell haven't been seeing eye to eye. The two have had their differences in the past, but things have seemed to escalate recently. Bolton, an appointee under Vernon Jones's administration, has

served with the DeKalb Police since 2006.

Recently, the CEO's office has been concerned with Chief Bolton's use of compensation time, and on February 10, CEO Ellis released a statement announcing Chief Bolton's two-week administrative leave, during which an

internal investigation was launched into the Chief's use of compensation time during his frequent visits to his family in Texas.

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Strengthening Our Community



“Keep DeKalb Beautiful”

A popular slogan in our county is “Keep DeKalb Beautiful.” As we embark on a New Year, and a transition into new leadership both in DeKalb and in our nation’s capital, we must as citizens take on new responsibilities as well. Commissioner Lee May continues to serve his constituents of District 5 faithfully, and now he needs your help in strengthening our community.

It is important to Commissioner May to see DeKalb stay beautiful now, and in the future. You can do your part now by getting involved in the various community events and programs, such as the DeKalb recycling program. It is up to all of us to make a greener earth and to “Keep DeKalb Beautiful.”

Contact the DeKalb Curbside Recycling Program At:

Phone: (404) 294-2900

Visit them: <http://web.co.dekalb.ga.us/beautiful>

Contact Keep DeKalb Beautiful:

Phone: (404) 371-2654

Fax: (404) 294-2774

Rapper T.I. Visits Lithonia Middle School

Wednesday, January, 28, 2009

Screaming, Crying, Laughter, Inspiration, Thought, Clarity. These words best describe the emotions present during the youth summit at Lithonia Middle School this past Wednesday. As nearly 600, 7th and 8th grade students gathered in the school’s gymnasium, the school’s principal Patricia E. May made opening remarks and attempted to calm the excited student body. As Commissioner Lee May was introduced the crowd roared with applause, it was clear the students knew who their commissioner was. Commissioner May designed the summit, alongside Principle May, to help moti-

vate and educate the youth in DeKalb County. The summit was also aimed at helping to deter young students from making poor decisions and at focusing them toward setting and reaching their goals and aspirations.

Commissioner May knows how important the youth are to our future. “T.I. connects directly to youth. He speaks their language and they listen,” added Commissioner May. “At the end of the day, we want the message of nonviolence to resonate with our youth. Anytime you reach just one young person that is a success in itself. When you reach the youth, you begin to change your community for the better.”

T.I.’s message did resonate with the children. He called for them to be true to themselves, and emphasized the importance of hard work, fair play, and non-violence.

This event was part of Commissioner May’s Youth Initiative focusing on safety awareness throughout the community.



The People's Voice



Commissioner May truly values his constituents questions, comments and concerns. Therefore in an effort to make sure that he is better serving your needs, in each issue of the District 5 Newsletter Commissioner May will address a specific question or comment. This is your forum to be heard, The People's Voice. Please e-mail any questions, comments, or concerns to jkhockett@co.DeKalb.ga.us

"I am a homeowner in Lithonia. I love DeKalb County, and couldn't imagine living anywhere else. However, I see the need for drastic improvements in my area.

Conditions are bad, and getting worse. Homes are literally falling apart. Signs are being defaced with graffiti. Trash is eve-

rywhere, and making for an ugly sight. We have gangs ramped in our neighborhoods.

As a result of this and the growing foreclosure rates in my area, home prices have fallen considerably. My home's value has fallen drastically from \$123,000 to \$75,000.

I have voiced my concerns nu-

merous times to the appropriate people, and have been unsuccessful in receiving any help with these issues.

I want to know what you are you going to do to help us, and what can we do as citizens to help solve these problems.

- J. Mobley

"It is up to all of us to take a collective effort in strengthening our communities."

Commissioner May's Response

Dear Mr. Mobley,

Thank you for your comment. It is my pleasure to answer any issues or concerns of my constituents. I wish I could say that I had a quick fix to every problem that faces our district. I don't. But, what I can offer you is my commitment to ensuring that the policies I support will reflect the issues that you as a hard-working tax payer advocate for. Recently, I have hosted youth summits at local schools in order to address the issue of gang violence amongst our youth. Also foreclosure rates are high in DeKalb, but we have recently received money from the federal government, which will be allocated to help bring life back to DeKalb communities through an initiative called the Neighborhood Stabilization Project. These things will help, but in order to face these hard times it is up to all of us to take a collective effort in strengthening our communities. This means that you have to get involved by volunteering to pick up trash in your community, attending community meetings to learn what's available to you, and letting your voice be heard by participating in surveys, writing letters and sending e-mails. Every little thing that you do will make a collective difference. This is but a part of the solution, but we as a team can combat the growing problems facing our community. Thank you and God Bless.

-Commissioner Lee N. May

DeKalb Meets to Set 2009 Budget

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collective efforts amongst the Board, DeKalb County is making strives to ensure that you, the hard-working tax-payers, voices are being heard and dollars are being spent to best meet your needs.

The proposed budget was given to the BOC on January 1, 2009 from CEO Burrell Ellis' office.

This year DeKalb works with a reduced budget size of \$615 million. One controversial proposal within the CEO budget was the addition of a Public Safety Officer, to oversee the police and fire departments.

The DeKalb BOC budget committee, headed by Commissioner Stokes, made several amendments to the CEO proposed budget. The amended budget was approved in a Commission vote on Tuesday, February, 24 2009. The Amendments to the proposed budget include:

- 35 new police officers in DeKalb will hit the streets.
- 5 Code Enforcement Officers will be available to help crack down on code violations.
- \$195,000 was allocated to the Meals on Wheels project to restore CEO cuts.
- Money was restored to Lou Walker Senior

Center and other DeKalb Senior Centers.

- The Public Safety Officer position will not be funded within the constraints of the budget amendments, however, it was recommended for further study by the BOC.



DeKalb CEO Fires Police Chief

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In his absence, Major William O'Brien, formerly a Commander of the Internal Affairs Unit for the DeKalb Police Department and a 24 year veteran of the force, was handling the day to day responsibilities of the department.

Chief Bolton's two-week administrative leave was scheduled to expire on February 24, 2009, and Bolton was planning an additional two-week leave

for medical reasons; citing his recent fight with insulin-dependent diabetes. However, on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, CEO Ellis followed through on his previous threats, and forwarded a formal letter to Chief Bolton and his lawyer William J. McKenney detailing Chief Bolton's immediate termination of duty.

For more information on this story visit www.yourDeKalb.com, or www.DeKalbpolice.com.



Terrell Bolton

DeKalb At A Glance

Thursday, January 5, 2009

According to a recent press release by the DeKalb County Police Department, DeKalb County experienced a drop in overall crime this past year of 2008. The report stated that, "The DeKalb County Police Department is pleased to announce a **Crime Reduction** for the County for 2008 compared to 2007. **Violent**

Crimes in DeKalb County were **down by 3%** and **Property Crimes down by 1%**. The areas that led to the reduction in violent crimes were **aggravated assaults, down 19%** and **theft, down 17%** for the year. The County also realized a **decrease** in the number of **homicides by 1%**. Out of the 110 homicides at least 50 of them were either domestic related or perpetrators knew their

victim. The DeKalb County Police Department will continue to work with the community in 2009 to aggressively fight crime by instituting programs such as CrimeTrac (Shown Below) in order to make DeKalb County a safer place to live, work and play."

Commissioner May is committed to working alongside DeKalb Police to improve Public Safety.

Keep "Trac" of your Neighborhood With CRIMETRAC

The CrimeTrac system is a newly adopted program by DeKalb County, which provides users with information regarding crimes that have occurred within a given area of DeKalb. This software is very useful for a variety of purposes including:

- Current residents who want to know what's happening in their communities.
- Residents who need information in order to form a neighborhood watch organization. CrimeTrac gives the time and dates in which crimes occurred, helping to establish trends in these activities.
- Future residents can now make an informed decision about the community in which they are moving into.

Overall this new software will do a lot of good for all those people who have interests within DeKalb. With this added tool, hopefully crime rates in DeKalb will continue to fall.

For more information about CrimeTrac, visit the DeKalb Police website at www.DeKalbpolice.com

DeKalb County Police Department

KEEPING "TRAC" OF DEKALB COUNTY WITH CRIMETRAC

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

▶ **1. Search**

- By Address
- By Crime

▶ **2. Focus**

- Number of crimes within radius
- Number of crimes near specific address

▶ **3. Obtain Report**

- Date Range
- Crime Type

● ● ● ● ● ●

- **Innovative mapping system for citizens**
- **Provides accurate and timely crime data in the form of reports and maps**
- **Informs citizens of activities taking place in their own neighborhoods**
- **Citizen friendly and easy to use**
- **Easy as 1, 2, 3- just search, focus and obtain report on any area in unincorporated DeKalb County**
- **Log on to www.dekalbpolice.com**



DeKalb At A Glance

FIRE SAFETY

- In DeKalb we have had approximately 120 fires since the beginning of 2009.
- 44 of these fires were identified as being caused by cooking mishaps.

To keep unintentional injuries out of your kitchen, the Home Safety Council suggests taking precaution while preparing food.

Ten Important Fire Safety Tips

1. Always stay in the kitchen when cooking
2. Keep towels, grocery bags, and curtains away from the range top
3. Keep grease from building up on the range top and inside of the oven.
4. Make sure to roll up your sleeves while cooking in order to prevent catching on fire. If your clothes do catch fire, STOP, DROP and ROLL, and seek medical attention immediately.
5. Always turn pot handles toward the center of the range to prevent spills.
6. Keep hot containers away from the edge of the counter tops.
7. Food cooked in microwaves can be dangerously hot. Be very cautious when handling these products.
8. Keep children and pets away from the kitchen when anyone is cooking.
9. All of your electrical outlets should be protected by Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
10. For safer water temperatures set the hot water heater at 120° Fahrenheit or below.



Upcoming Dates:

Board Of Commissioners (BOC) Meetings

When: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium

BOC Work Session and Meetings

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: Manuel J. Maloof Center Auditorium
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30033.

DeKalb Electronics Recycling Event

When: Saturday, March 7, 2009

Where: Wal-Mart: Store 3710
3580 Memorial Drive
Decatur, GA 30032

This is a great opportunity to make DeKalb greener, and recycle your electronics for free.

For more information call:
(404) 371-2654.

Earth Day 2009

When: Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Earth day is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation of the Earth's environment.

*Elementary students are eligible to sign up for the Earth Day Design Contest at www.mallatstonecrest.com. **The deadline for all design submissions is March 20th.***

Important Reference Information

DeKalb County

www.yourdekalb.com

Email: DeKalbcounty@co.dekalb.ga.us

DeKalb Police Department

www.dekalbpolice.com

General Information: 404-294-2000

DeKalb Recorder's Court

dklbweb.dekalbga.org/courts/recorders

DeKalb Libraries

www.dekalblibrary.org

Reference Desk: 404-370-8450

State of Georgia

www.georgia.gov

MARTA

www.itsmarta.com

Customer Information: 404-848-5000

DeKalb Watershed Management

www.dekalbwatershed.com

Billing Information: 404-378-4475

DeKalb Convention and Visitor's Bureau

www.dcvb.org

General Information: 770-492-5000

A Message From Commissioner May



LEE MAY
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030

Phone: 404-371-4745

Fax: 404-687-2411

E-mail: lmay@co.dekalb.ga.us

Dear District 5 Constituents,

It is a privilege to represent you on the DeKalb County Commission. As your District 5 Commissioner, I am honored to be your active voice on the County Commission, but in order to represent you effectively first I need to hear directly from you. From your email messages to hand written notes, your feedback is invaluable.

I hope that you will use this newsletter as another link to me and that you find it to be a very useful tool in helping me better serve you.

Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas on how we can press forward to redefine policies that elevate the quality of life in the District 5 and DeKalb County.

I thank you once again for reading our newsletter, and I look forward to working with you to help make DeKalb County a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Lee N. May
Commissioner, District 5